

Application No. 09/929,210
Attorney Docket No. 13031US01

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-31 and 33-52. Claims 1-28 have been allowed. Claims 30, 31, 34-39, 48, 49, and 51 were objected to, but found to be allowable if rewritten. Claims 29, 33, 40-47, 50, and 52 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 30, 33, 40, 50, and 52 have been amended and claims 29 and 48 have been canceled.

The Examiner identified claims 30, 31, 34-39, 48, 49, and 51 as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

First, with regard to claim 30, claim 30 has been amended to become an independent claim by including the limitations of independent claim 29, from which claim 30 depended. Claim 29 has been canceled. Additionally, claims 31, 34-39, and 51 depend from claim 30. Further, claims 33 and 52 have been amended to depend from claim 30. Claims 30, 31, 33-39, and 51-52 are consequently respectfully submitted to be allowable.

With regard to claims 48 and 49, claims 48 and 49 depend from independent claim 40. Independent claim 40 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 48 and claim 48 has been canceled. Additionally, claims 41-47 depend from claim 40 either directly or through other claims. Consequently, claim 40 and its dependent claims 41-47 and 49 are respectfully submitted to be allowable.

Application No. 09/929,210
Attorney Docket No. 13031US01

Claims 29, 33, 40-47, 50, and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raj, U.S. Pat. No. 6,628,649 in view of Edsall, U.S. Pat. No. 6,831,898.

Turning to the rejected claims, claim 29 has been canceled and claims 33 and 52 have been amended to depend from claim 30 as discussed above, which was indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Similarly, claim 40 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 48 and should consequently also be allowable along with dependent claims 41-47. Thus, only claim 50 remains at issue in the present rejection.

Raj teaches an apparatus for providing redundant routing in a switched network device. However, as stated by the Examiner in the Office Action, Raj does not disclose a second data set comprising a copy of the first data set and passing through the second connection.

Edsall teaches multiple packet paths to improve reliability in an IP network. However, Edsall only teaches communication between a pair of mesh IP networks, and not between a ring-based network (such as a SONET network) and a mesh IP network.

Consequently, claim 50 has been amended to recite that the first and second networks include one mesh network and one ring-based network. This configuration is one of the embodiments discussed in the present application at paragraph 18 of the Detailed Description.

Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that claim 50 as amended is free of the prior art and allowable.

Application No. 09/929,210
Attorney Docket No. 13031US01

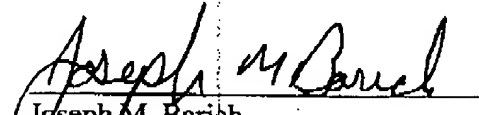
CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 20, 2006


Joseph M. Barich
Registration No. 42,291

MCANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661

Telephone: (312) 775-8000
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100

BEST AVAILABLE COPY